

Amendments to the Drawings

Please delete Fig. 28B in its entirety. Attached hereto as Appendix A is a Replacement Drawing Sheet.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-32 and 34 are pending herein. Claims 12-15, 19-32 and 34 have been withdrawn from consideration by the PTO. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by Figs. 3, 4 and 16 and pages 38-40 in the specification, for example. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

1. The objection to the Figures and specification is noted but deemed moot in view of the deletion of Fig. 28 and the corresponding description that was added to the specification.

2. Claims 1, 4 and 7-9 were rejected under §102(b) over Hamada. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that an undulated-wall honeycomb structure comprises at least 56 of the specifically shaped cell passages.

Amended claim 1 is distinguishable from Hamada, because the cells within the structure of Hamada that happen to be coincidentally similar to the claimed cell passage structure are limited to the four cells in the center of the honeycomb structure in Fig. 2b. In contrast, amended claim 1 clearly recites that the claimed undulating-wall honeycomb structure comprises at least 56 of the specifically claimed cell passages. Thus, the claimed undulated-wall honeycomb structure is physically distinguishable from Hamada.

Functionally, since the recessions and protrusions of Hamada are synchronized in the direction of the cell passage, the shape of the cross-section is the same at any arbitrary position along the cell passage. This synchronization of cell shape along the cell passage permits the fluid flow through the cell passages to be more laminar and precludes increasing the interaction between the fluid flowing through the cell passage and the wall face of Hamada, as discussed on page 6 of the specification. In contrast, the claimed undulated-wall honeycomb structure has differing wall forms that agitate the flow of the fluid, thereby increasing the contact efficiency between the fluid and the wall face (see specification at page 12), while also increasing the strength of the honeycomb structure (see specification at page 13).

Based on the above, Hamada fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

3. Claim 5 was rejected under §103(a) over Hamada in view of Yutake and Maus; claims 6, 10 and 16 were rejected under §103(a) over Hamada; claims 11 and 17 were rejected under §103(a) over Hamada in view of Abe; and claim 18 was rejected under §103(a) over Hamada in view of Sugita. These rejections are respectfully traversed, because all of these claims ultimately depend from amended claim 1, and amended claim is patentable for the reasons explained above.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Examiner Leung is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

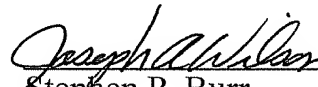
Should Examiner Leung deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, she is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

January 23, 2009

Date



Stephen P. Burr
Reg. No. 32,970

Joseph A. Wilson
Reg. No. 53,780

SPB:JAW:jms

BURR & BROWN
P.O. Box 7068
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191
Telephone: (315) 233-8300
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320